

What is claimed is:

1. An electrical test probe comprising:

a probe body;

a probe tip mechanically coupled to said probe body, wherein said probe tip is capable of being non-permanently electrically coupled to an external test instrument;

a control device mechanically coupled to said probe body, and electrically isolated from said probe tip, wherein said control device is capable of being non-permanently electrically coupled to said test instrument; and

a mode display mechanically coupled to said probe body and electrically coupled to said test instrument visually representing a configuration of said test instrument.

2. An electrical test probe as recited in claim 1 wherein;

said mode display is a liquid crystal display device.

3. An electrical test probe as recited in claim 1 wherein;

said mode display is a light emitting diode display device.

4. An electrical test probe as recited in claim 1 wherein;

said mode display is one or more light emitting diodes.

5. An electrical test probe as recited in claim 1 wherein;

said mode display is an electroluminescent display device.

6. An electrical test probe comprising:

2 a probe body;
a probe tip mechanically coupled to said probe body;
4 a control device mechanically coupled to said probe body, and electrically isolated
from said probe tip;
6 a communication port mechanically coupled to said probe body, and electrically
coupled to said control device and said probe tip, wherein said communication
8 port is capable of being non-permanently electrically coupled to an external
electrical test instrument; and
10 a mode display mechanically coupled to said probe body and electrically coupled
to said test instrument visually representing a configuration of said test
12 instrument.

7. An electrical test probe as recited in claim 6 wherein;

2 said mode display is a liquid crystal display device.

8. An electrical test probe as recited in claim 6 wherein;

2 said mode display is a light emitting diode display device.

9. An electrical test probe as recited in claim 6 wherein;

2 said mode display is one or more light emitting diodes.

10. An electrical test probe as recited in claim 6 wherein;

2 said mode display is an electroluminescent display device.

11. An electrical test probe comprising:

2 a probe body;
 a probe tip mechanically coupled to said probe body;
4 a cable electrically coupled to said probe tip, mechanically coupled to said probe
 body, and non-permanently electrically and mechanically coupled to an
6 external electrical test instrument;
 a control device mechanically coupled to said probe body and electrically coupled
8 to said cable, and electrically isolated from said probe tip, wherein said control
 device, when activated, activates a function of said test instrument; and
10 a mode display mechanically coupled to said probe body and electrically coupled
 to said test instrument visually representing a configuration of said test
12 instrument.

12. An electrical test probe as recited in claim 11 wherein;

2 said mode display is a liquid crystal display device.

13. An electrical test probe as recited in claim 11 wherein;

2 said mode display is a light emitting diode display device.

14. An electrical test probe as recited in claim 11 wherein;

2 said mode display is one or more light emitting diodes.

4 15. An electrical test probe as recited in claim 11 wherein;

 said mode display is an electroluminescent display device.

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